

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended so as to set forth that the cast iron alloy comprises spheroidal graphite in the as cast condition. This is significantly different from the teachings of the cited U.K. '724 patent. The U.K. '724 patent requires a heat treatment in order to obtain the nodular (spheroidal) graphite. In this regard please see Page 2 lines 35-51. The alloy of the present invention has a controlled composition which allows for the spheroidal graphite to be formed in the as cast condition. This is significant in that it eliminates the need for an expensive heat treatment of the cast alloy as required in the cited U.K. '724 patent. Independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended so as to include the recitation that the graphite in the as cast alloy comprises spheroidal graphite. In addition to the foregoing, new claims 16 and 17 have been added and depend from independent claims 1 and 15 respectively. Claims 16 and 17 set forth that the sulfur content is less than .01. The sulfur content is not at all suggested by the U.K. '724 patent. The U.K. '724 patent contemplates sulfur contents which are significantly higher than that of the range claimed in dependent claims 16 and 17. In this regard see Page 2, line 58 of the '724 document.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the

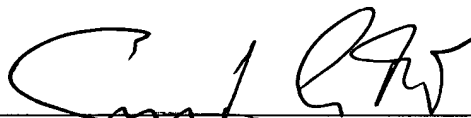
claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on July 25, 2005.



Rachel Piscitelli